

Serial No: 10/500,306

Gonzalez et al.

PF 53175

The Examiner has argued the election of and restriction to one of the following groups:

Group I: claims 14-17, 25 drawn to a composition

Group II: claims 18-21 drawn to a process of metal surface treatment

Group III: claims 22-24 drawn to a process for deposition of metals or metal alloys on a plastics surface.

Applicants herewith elect group (I), which include claims 14-17 and 25. Traversal of the Examiner's restriction requirement is, however, deemed proper in light of the following remarks.

The Examiner required restriction of Groups I, II, and III arguing that they lack the same or corresponding special technical feature, in particular that the same process is useful for lubrication on metal surfaces. However, the PCT Administrative Instructions, Annex B(e)(i) state that there can be unity of invention where there are independent claims directed to a product, as well as use of that product. The claims of the current invention relate to compositions for the treatment of metal surfaces, processes for the anticorrosion treatment of metal surfaces, and the use of the polymers for the treatment of metal surfaces. Therefore, the current claims are directed to a product, in this case a composition, as well as the use of that composition, in this case for the treatment of metal surfaces and plastic surfaces.

The connecting special technical feature of the mentioned claims is the use of specific derivatives of polymers. These polymers comprise, as recited in the claims, structural element (1) and at least three structural elements selected from the group consisting of (2), (3), (4) and (5) with the meaning of R', R'', R''' and M defined in the claims therein. Furthermore, component A which is present in the composition according to the current claims is used for the anticorrosion treatment of metal surfaces and is used for the process for depositing metals or metal alloys on plastic surfaces. The use of such polymers results in improvement of the metal surface. Therefore, all the claims involve one or more of the same special technical feature and therefore satisfy the unity of invention according to PCT Rule 13.

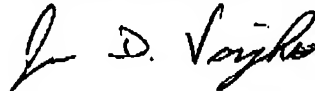
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Respectfully submitted,
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